

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 10665 051559Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 /071 W

----- 010761

R 042028Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1730

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: NA

EO 11652: ECIN CO

SUBJ:COLOMBIAN VIEWS ON ANDEAN PACT AND SELA

1. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM LUERS AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, COLOMBIAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JORGE RAMIREZ EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS:

ANDEAN PACT-- IN GENERAL, THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH RATE OF PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THE PACT. HE REFERRED OBLIQUELY TO SOME RECENT CRITICISMS OF THE PACT BY COLOMBIAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND LABOR AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT, NOTING THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA AND THAT HE DID NOT SHARE CRITICS' VIEWS. HE DID NOT DENY THERE WERE SOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED BUT HE WAS BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC. MINISTER REMIREZ SAID THAT PACT MEMBERS WERE DIVIDED IN THEIR PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF THE AGREEMENT. ONE APPROACH REPRESENTED PRICIPALLY BY PERU AND VENEZUELA SAW PACT AS FRAMEWORK FOR A SELF-SUFFICIENT UNIT; THE OTHER VIEW REPRESENTED BY COLOMBIA SAW AGREEMENT AS

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 10665 051559Z

A SPRINGBOARD OR PLATFORM THAT COULD LEAD TO BROADER

MULTILATERAL ASSOCIATION. COLOMBIA, HE SAID, HAD LOWER DUTIES AND FEWER RESTRICTIONS ON ITS TRADE THAN ITS ASSOCIATES. COUNTRIES SUCH AS VENEZUELA WERE WILLING TO PAY ANY ECONOMIC COST IN ORDER TO INDUSTRIALIZE AND THIS POLICY LED TO MANY INEFFICIENT PROJECTS. COLOMBIA WAS NOT WILLING TO PAY THESE COSTS AND THEREFORE INTENDED TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION IN PACT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SELA-- MINISTER RAMIREZ SAID THAT ORGANIZATION FINALLY APPROVED DURING PANAMA CONFERENCE DIFFERED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSALS. SELA AS INITIALLY ENVISAGED BY MEXICO AND VENEZUELLA, WOULD HAVE REPLACED OAS ECONOMIC UNITS AND BEEN ORGANIZED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE US. BOTH OF THESE ELEMENTS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. THE MINISTER THOUGHT SELA COULD SERVE A USEFUL FUNCITON IN COORDINATING LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AS FOR EXAMPLE THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MANILA IN JANUARY. HE NOTED THAT SELA WAS A TREATY AND THAT PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION WOULD BE REQUIRED.

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